

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 05739 061316Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
DHA-05 MCT-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03
/087 W

-----087649 070427Z /70

R 061000Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6593
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
DIA WASHDC
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5739

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, BG
SUBJ: SECURITY SITUATION

1. ALTHOUGH THE CITY OF DACCA LOOKS NORMAL EXCEPT FOR CONTINUED
EXTRAL GUARDS AND PRECAUTIONS IN THE CANTONMENT, THERE IS
CONCERN IN THE MILITARY THAT THE INCIDENTS OF SUNDAY MIGHT
NOT BE THE LAST OF THE PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THE MUTINY.

2. THE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF UNEASE IS THE APPROXIMATELY 900
WEAPONS WHICH WERE TAKEN FROM THE AIR FORCE WEAPONS ROOM.
A TOTAL OF 3000 WERE TAKEN BUT ONLY 2100 HAVE BEEN RECOVERED.
IT IS THOUGHT BY THE MILITARY THAT MANY OF THESE WILL FIND
THEIR WAY INTO THE COUNTRYSIDE AND COULD BE THE IMPETUS FOR
SOME DETERIORATION IN THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION THERE.

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PAGE 02 DACCA 05739 061316Z

WE ARE ADVISING AMERICANS TO POSTPONE SCHEDULED TRIPS
OUTSIDE DACCA UNTIL THE SITUATION IS CLEARER.

3. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ALMOST 400 BAF PERSONNEL WERE
INVOLVED ON SUNDAY. OF THESE, WE ARE TOLD, ABOUT 200
WERE KILLED IN THE COUNTERACTION BY THE 9TH DIVISION
AND THE BDR, 143 WERE ARRESTED (INCLUDING A CORPORAL

RAHIM WHO IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN THE LEADER) AND THE
BALANCE (SIXTY OR SO) ARE STILL AT LARGE. THERE ARE
VERY FEW ARMY MUTINEERS IN CUSTODY; OUR INFORMATION IS THAT
ALMOST ALL WERE KILLED BUT OUR SOURCE DOES NOT YET HAVE
NUMBERS. WE ALSO LEARNED THAT THE ARMY PERSONNEL WERE
DRAWN FROM THE ORDNANCE AND MEDICAL UNITS AS WELL AS THE
SIGNALS, WHO WERE THE MAJORITY. THE SIGNALS UNIT SENT
MESSAGES TO OTHER CANTONMENTS ALONG THE LINES OF THE 0555
BROADCAST, BUT EXCEPT IN CHITTAGONG NO MAJOR INCIDENTS
RESULTED.

4. THE MILITARY ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT TWO HIGHLY
TECHNICAL FORCES (THE BAF AND THE SIGNALS) ARE NOW
SERIOUSLY DEPLETED OF PERSONNEL AND THAT RETRAINING WILL
TAKE A LONG TIME.

5. MOST OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE ISSUED STATE-
MENTS IN THE LAST TWO DAYS SUPPORTING ZIA AND CALLING FOR
STERN ACTION AGAINST THE MUTINEERS. THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION
TO THIS IS THE AWAMI LEAGUE. WE LEARNED THAT ON
SATURDAY NIGHT MANY PRINCIPAL AWAMI LEAGUE LEADERS
WERE AT THE HOME OF ONE OF THEM (SHAH MOAZZEM) BUT
THIS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN COINCIDENTAL.

6. THE JSD CONTINUED TO BE BRANDED AS THE CULPRIT.
HOWEVER, AN EARLIER REPORT THAT MAJOR JALIL HAD BEEN
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PAGE 03 DACCA 05739 061316Z

RELEASED FROM JAIL BY THE MUTINEERS IN BOGRA APPEARS
TO BE FALSE. BDR SEPOYS ARE GUARDING THE DACCA CENTRAL
JAIL AND HAVE BEEN SINCE EARLY SUNDAY AS IT IS SUSPECTED
THAT AN ATTEMPT MIGHT HAVE BEEN PLANNED TO RELEASE
SERAJUL ALAM KHAN WHO IS THERE.

7. WITHIN THE MILITARY, AIR VICE MARSHAL K.M.A. ISLAM,
DIRECTOR GENERAL, FORCES INTELLIGENCE IS SAID TO BE ON
HIS WAY OUT. IN THE CIVILIAN INTELLIGENCE APARATUS, THE
SAME COULD BE TRUE FOR A.B.S. SAFDAR, DIRECTOR GENERAL,
NATIONAL SECURITY INTELLIGENCE.
MASTERS

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